DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 256 384 JC 850 155

TITLE	Student Flow of the 1982 Graduates. Office of Institutional Research Report #23.
INSTITUTION	Philadelphia Community Coll., PA. Office of Institutional Research.
PUB DATE	Aug 82
NOTE	17p.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Research/Technical (143)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Academic Achievement; *Attendance Patterns; *College Attendance; Community Colleges; Two Year Colleges; *Two Year College Students

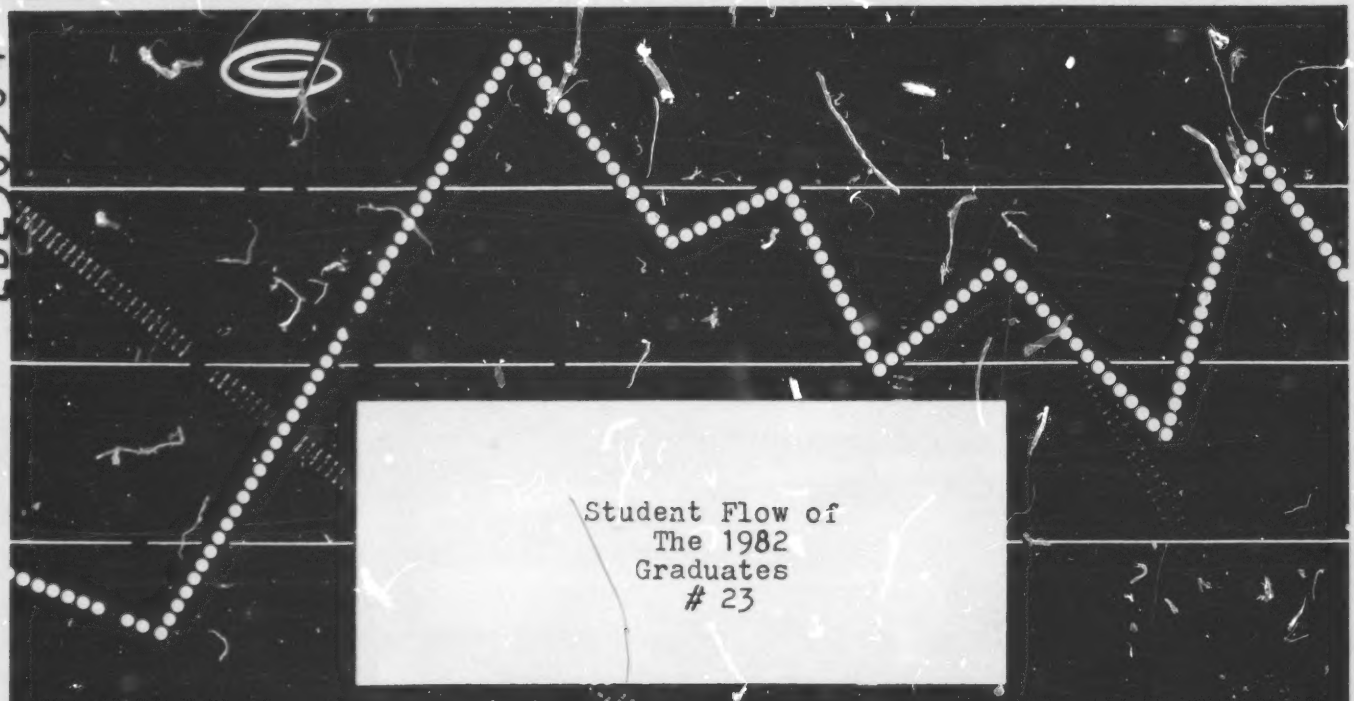
ABSTRACT

At the conclusion of the spring 1982 semester, 893 students graduated from the Community College of Philadelpha (CCP). Only a few completed the requirements for their degrees in 2 uninterrupted years. In order to investigate the typical CCP graduate's movement through the institution, the attendance patterns of the 1982 graduating class were analyzed. Starting in fall 1974, these 893 graduates were tracked, with particular attention given to the number of semesters enrolled; credit hour information; and history of academic difficulties, stop-out behavior, and curriculum changes. Study findings included the following: (1) 58 certificates and 834 associate degrees were awarded at CCP in spring 1982; (2) the 1982 graduating class was enrolled for an average of 8.5 semesters; (3) 56% of the graduates received a degree within 3 years of their initial enrollment; (4) approximately 30% of the graduates stopped-out for at least one semester between their initial enrollment and graduation; (5) the graduates maintained a mean cumulative grade point average of 2.9 at the time of graduation; (6) the mean number of credits earned by a graduate in a semester was nine; (7) 21% of the graduates earned more than 70 credit hours; and (8) between 1% and 24% of the graduates enrolled in any semester changed curricula at the end of the semester, with much movement into and out of the General Studies program. (AYC)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED256384

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA



Student Flow of
The 1982
Graduates
23

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

JC 850 155

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

J. Grosset

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☒ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

■ 34 SOUTH 11TH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PENNA. 19107 ■ (215) 972-7000

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Student Flow of
The 1982
Graduates
23

IR Office
August, 1982

Introduction

At the conclusion of the Spring 1982 Semester, 893 students graduated from Community College of Philadelphia (CCP). Only a few completed the requirements for their degree in two uninterrupted years. This report attempts to portray the typical CCP graduates' movement through the institution. In order to accomplish this, the attendance patterns of the 1982 Graduating Class were analyzed. Starting in Fall 1974, these 893 graduates were tracked through the Institution, with particular attention given to the number of semesters enrolled, credit hour information, and history of academic difficulties, stop-out behavior and curriculum changes.

Degree Programs

A total of 893 certificates and degrees were awarded in Spring 1982, 58 certificates and 834 associate degrees. The following table lists the number of degrees and certificates by program and the percentage of the graduating class by program.

Table 1

Certificates and Degrees Awarded to 1982 CCP Graduates

	#	%
Arts & Sciences	1	.1%
Associate in Arts	16	1.8%
Accounting	30	3.4%
Architectural Technology	6	.7%
Art	5	.6%
Associate in Science	9	.1%
Criminal Justice	39	4.4%
Clerical Certificate	1	.1%
Computer Operator Certificate	27	.3%
Chemical Technology	2	.2%
Construction Technology	7	.8%
Cardiovascular Technology	7	.8%
Dental Assistant	11	1.2%
Dental Hygienist	11	1.2%
Data Processing	68	7.6%
Dietetic Assistant	8	.9%
Dietetic Technician	10	1.1%
Early Childhood Education	32	3.6%
Economics	1	.1%

	#	%
Pre-Education	6	.7%
Electronics Certificate	1	.1%
Electronics Engineering Technology	7	.8%
Engineering Science	17	1.9%
Finance	2	.2%
Fire Science	6	.7%
General Studies	245	27.4%
Gerontology	15	1.7%
Hotel, Restaurant Management	7	.8%
Inter. Trade & Transporation	8	.9%
Journalism	3	.3%
Law Enforcement	3	.3%
Library Technology	1	.1%
Medical Assistant II	2	.2%
Management Certificate	3	.3%
Management	49	5.5%
Mental Health/Social Service	32	3.6%
Marketing Management	3	.3%
Marketing Retailing	8	.9%
Medical Laboratory Technology	14	1.6%
Medical Records Assistant	2	.2%
Medical Records Technology	16	1.8%
Music	3	.3%
Nursing	77	8.6%
Office Science	27	1.3%

	#	%
Photography	12	1.3%
Radiologic Technology	11	1.2%
Respiratory Technican	10	1.1%
TOTAL	893	100%

IR Report #22

Pattern of Attendance

The average number of semesters including fall, spring and summer, (summer sessions in the same year have been combined and considered as one semester) the 1982 CCP Graduating Class was enrolled at CCP was 8.5. There was little difference in the number of enrolled semesters between students awarded a certificate or associate degree, the mean number of semesters for the former group was 8.1, for the latter, 8.9. In all likelihood this occurs because of a number of students who earn both a certificate and associate degree at the same time. Tables 2 and 3 contain frequency distributions of the total number of semesters the graduates were enrolled at CCP

Table 2

Number of Semesters 1982 Associate Degree Graduates Were Enrolled at CCP

# of Semesters	# of Grads	% of Grads
3	3	0.4
4	22	2.6
5	62	7.4
6	99	11.9
7	118	14.1
8	129	15.5
9	107	12.8
10	85	10.2
11	60	7.2
12	42	5.0
13	32	3.8
14	29	3.5
15	14	1.7
16	9	1.1
17	8	1.0
18	4	0.5
19	5	0.6
20	5	0.6
22	1	0.1
TOTAL	834	100.0

Table 3

Number of Semesters 1982 Certificate Graduates Were Enrolled at CCP

# of Semesters	# of Grads	% of Grads
3	2	3.4
4	8	13.8
5	3	5.2
6	7	12.1
7	5	8.6
8	9	15.5
9	4	6.9
10	7	12.1
11	4	6.9
12	3	5.2
13	3	5.2
14	2	3.4
15	1	1.7
TOTAL	58	100.0

IR Report #23

An overview of the graduates' movement into and out of CCP is provided by the information in Figures 1.

Starting in Fall 1974, and for each semester through to graduation, the number of 1982 graduates enrolled in each of the terms is given in the □. The △ on the right contains the number of graduates who stopped-out after the term. The O's on the left represent the three groups of students who make up the base figure in any semester. These groups include new students, re-entry students (students who stopped-out for at least a semester)

FIGURE 1

1982 GRADUATE STUDENT FLOW

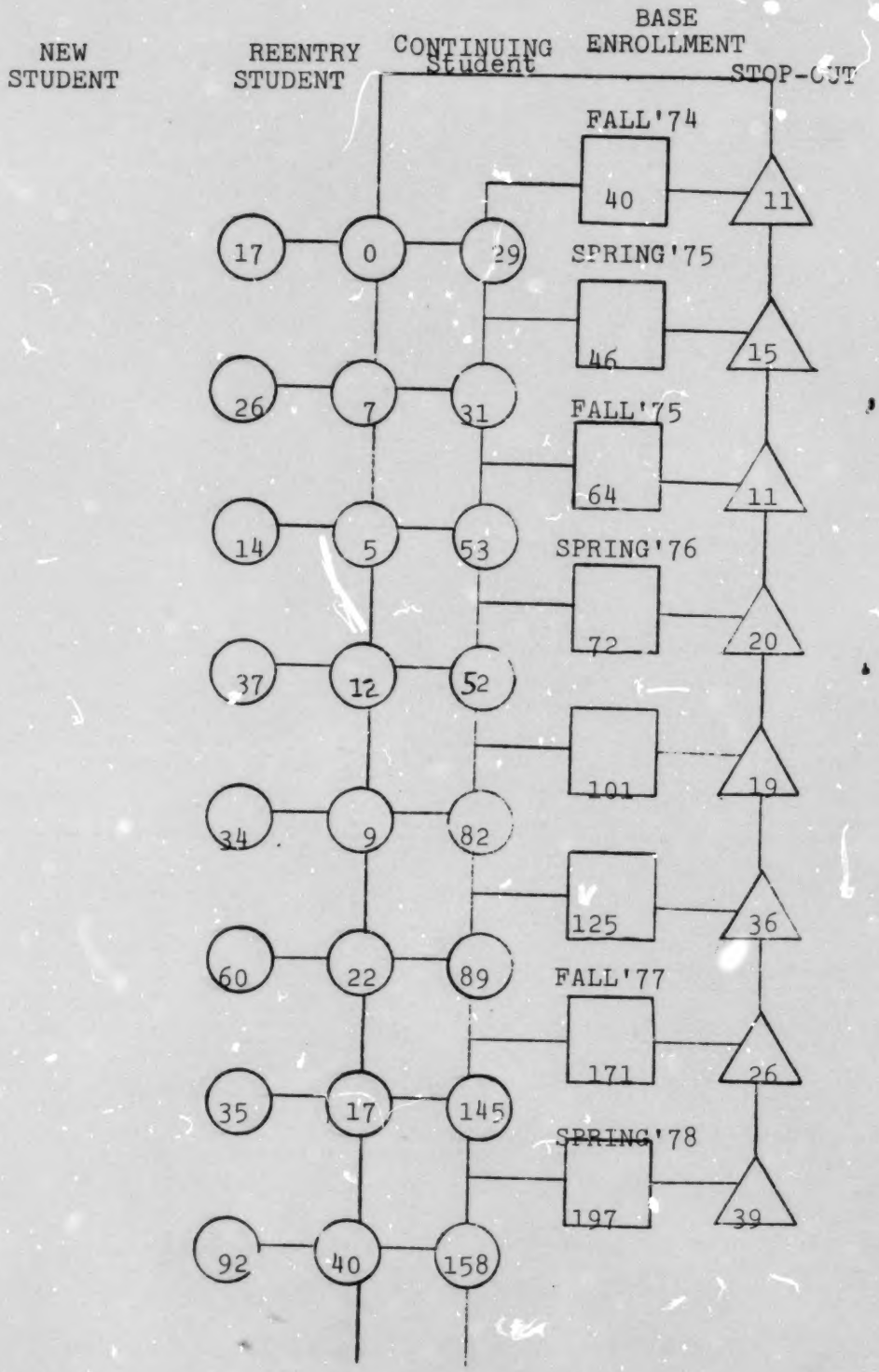
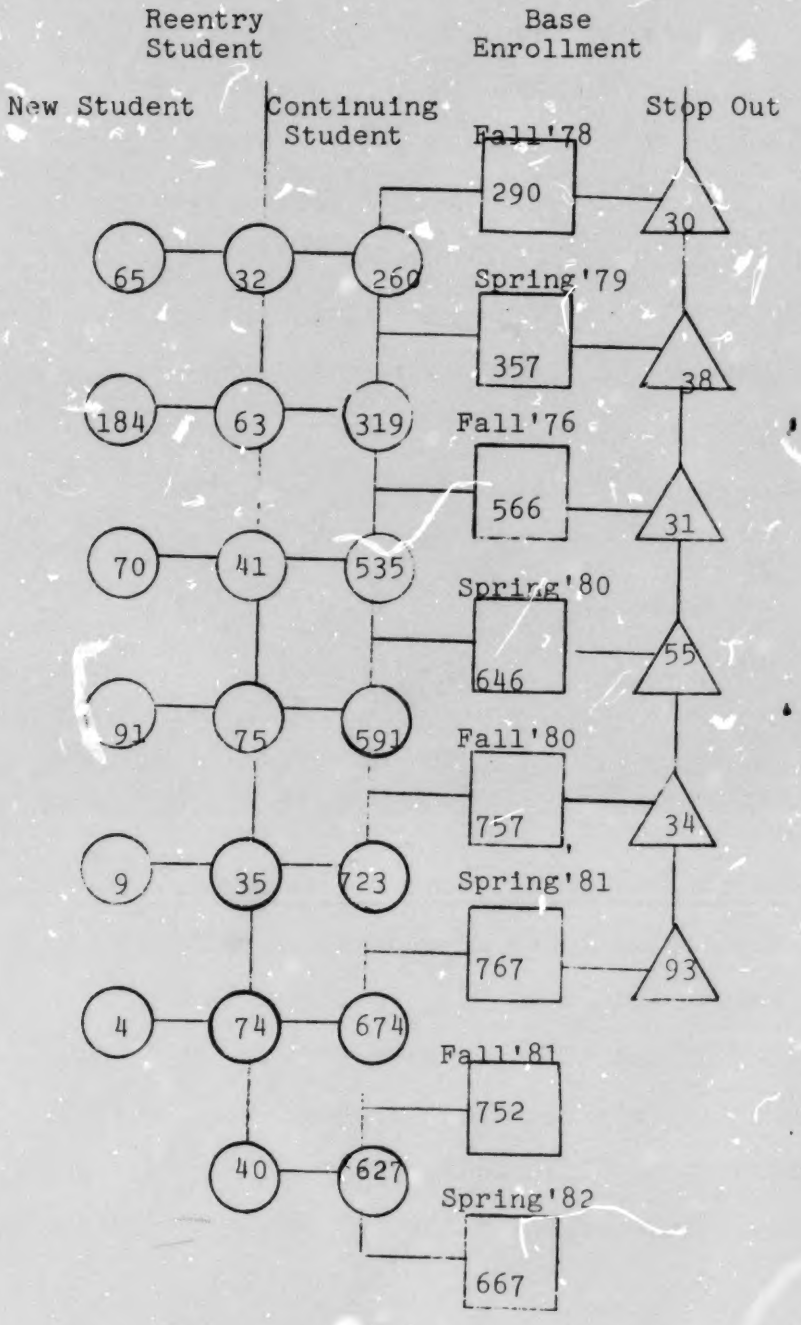


Figure 1 continued

1982 Graduate Student Flow



and continuing students (students enrolled in successive semesters). An example of how to read the figure follows: In the Fall 1975 semester, 64 of the 1982 graduates were enrolled at CCP. These 64 were composed of 26 new students, 31 students who continued from the previous Spring 1975 semester and 7 re-entry students from the Fall 1974 semester. Eleven of these 64 students did not enroll in the Spring 1976 semester.

An overall analysis of Figure 1 reveals several interesting pieces of information about the 1982 graduates. A sizeable percentage of students do complete a degree program in a relatively short period of time (3 years). Fifty-six percent (56%) of the students who graduated were first enrolled from Fall 1979 forward as new students.

On the other hand some CCP graduate took eight years or longer to complete a "two-year" program.

A substantial number of graduates did not enroll in successive semesters. The percentage of eventual graduates enrolled in any one semester who took a leave of absence from CCP in the following semester ranged from 4 to 33%. Students reentering represented between 6 and 14% of the 1982 graduate enrollment in the semesters shown in Figure 1. Many reentries occurred in semesters directly preceeding graduation. This indicates that for some students, stopping-out is necessary, even though program completion is near at hand.

Reasons for Stopping-Out

As is apparent from Figure 1, a pattern of attendance in non-successive semesters is not unusual for many CCP graduates. In an effort to understand stop-out behavior, analysis of semester grade point averages (GPA) was undertaken. After each semester from Fall 1974 to graduation, graduates were divided into two groups, continuers and stop-outs. The GPA for the two groups was compared in order to determine if differences existed. It was assumed that if the GPA's for stop-outs were significantly lower than the GPA's for continuers, than academic difficulties in that particular semester may have accounted for the stop-out behavior.

Although stop-out GPA was lower than continuer GPA in each semester, the differences were for the most part nonsignificant and in only one semester did the stop-out GPA fall below the 2.0 level. In most cases differences amounted to only .3 per semester.

These findings lead to the speculation that stop-out behavior may be precipitated in the majority of cases by nonacademic reasons, e.g., family or job related conflicts, financial problems or illness.

As a whole, the graduates maintained an academically respectable cumulative GPA of 2.9. Forty percent (40%) of the graduates had a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better by graduation.

Credit Hours Attempted and Earned

Part of the explanation for the extended period of time, more than eight semesters, taken by a large portion of students to meet degrees requirements is the growing number of part-time students. In any one of the semesters from Fall 1974 through to graduation, a little less than half of the students were registered for fewer than 12 semester hours. The mean number of credit earned by a graduate in a semester was nine.

The graduates had a relatively high completion rate in the courses in which they were enrolled. They completed an average of 90% of the courses they attempted.

Curriculum Changes

Finally, graduate history of curriculum change was analyzed. Frequent changes of curricula, especially between unrelated programs, could contribute to prolonging the length of time taken to earn a degree. Twenty-one percent (21%) of the 1982 graduates earned more than 70 credit hours. The average range for most degree programs is between 60 and 69 credits.

Between one and 24% of the graduates who were enrolled in any semester represented in Figure 1 changed curricula at the end of the semester. Much of the movement was out of and into General Studies. When programs other than General Studies were involved in changes, in the majority of cases they were within the same division, i.e., change from Secretarial Science to Office Science.

Conclusion

It may take CCP graduates more than two years to earn a "two-year" degree, however, they do persevere and eventually acquire this educational achievement.

Several variables have been examined in order to understand the effect they have on graduate flow through the institution. Approximately 30% of the graduates stopped-out at least one semester between their initial enrollment and graduation. It was demonstrated that the reasons for stopping-out were most likely personal rather than academic since the semester grade point average (GPA) prior to dropping out rarely fell below 2.0. In fact, as a group the graduates maintained a mean cumulative GPA of 2.9 at the time of graduation.

A great many students enroll at CCP on a part-time basis. In fact the mean number of credits earned by the 1982 graduates in a semester was nine. In addition, many degree programs are designed to take longer than four semesters of full-time work (12 or more credit hours) to complete. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that a large majority of students would finish their necessary course work in four semesters.

14 ERIC Clearinghouse for Junior Colleges
JUN 7 1985